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# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 69, ISSUE NO. 8 | NOVEMBER 12, 2008 | IT'S *YOUR* NEWSPAPER

## Math Grant Adds Up For Valley

**■ Valley College receives a $191,593 gran to help establish programs with the Math Department.**

BY JOE LAFLEUR
STAFF WRITER

Valley College has been awarded a Congressionaly Directed Grant from the U.S. Department of Education worth $191,593 that will be used to establish a "Solving the Math Achievement Gap" program in a department that has seen its success fall recently.

"Student performance has been getting worse and worse over the years," said Teresa Sutcliffe, the grant's program director. "I think it's great that we were awarded the grant… Student success is our top priority. Successful students become successful citizens who will contribute a lot to the betterment of our society."

According to Valley's website, "This program will address the serious challenge of under-preparedness of community college students in the subject of mathematics by placing faculty, tutors and students at the core of addressing this challenge."

The program will accomplish its goal through a number of new improvements to the math department, which include training for faculty and tutors, expanded tutoring services and updated resource material in the classroom and online.

The grant, effective Oct. 1, was approved in Feb. 2008 but Valley did not learn about it until September.

"The grant started at a weird time and so it was hard to set up the programs," Sutcliffe said. "More money is always better, but for what we got, we can have Tutor Infusion Program

see *Grant* page 2

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**LOVE PROTEST** - In the largest of a week's worth of demonstrations more than 20,000 people flooded the streets of Silver Lake and Hollywood Saturday night to protest the passing of Proposition 8. Pejman Mokhtari carries his sign through the street to demonstrate that love is for all.

## Prop. 8 Provokes Protests Across California

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

**■ Thousands of Californians take to the streets to protest the passage of Proposition 8, which bans same-sex marriage.**

Thousands of protestors united in Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento and other California cities over the weekend to oppose the Nov. 4 passage of Proposition 8.

More than 2,000 people marched through the streets of Long Beach on Friday. According to the Los Angeles Times, 15 people were arrested, most for refusing to disperse.

"After the nation votes for the first black president and passes Proposition 2 [which will improve conditions on chicken farms], they still don't understand that we are people," said 45-year-old resident Jeff Kimbel.

At about 7 p.m., protesters in Long Beach began the 1.8 mile walk at Redondo Avenue and Broadway, progressing to Alamitos Avenue while chanting, "Gay, straight, black, white; marriage is a civil right!" and "What do we want? Equal rights! When do we want it? Now!"

While residents of the community cheered from their homes, two brothers, both of whom are gay, watched the march from their front porch.

"It's been very overwhelming, but it's about time we do something," said Mike who declined to give his last name. "I think that any two caring people should be allowed to be married. We should be able to enjoy the same benefits as all."

When protestors reached the intersection of Alamitos Avenue and Broadway they listened to guest speakers who reassured the people that they would take this matter to the steps of Sacramento saying, "We say it like our President Barack Obama, yes we can."

Activists with poster boards in hand, marched through the streets with their friends and family. A protester held a sign that read, "What's next? Separate, but equal water

see *Protests* page 2

## Allied Health Finally Officially Open for Business

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

Administration, faculty, members of the Los Angeles Community College District's Board of Trustees and other supporters were on hand to celebrate the Nov. 5 ribbon cutting ceremony for Valley College's $46 million Allied and Health Science building.

The 3-story teaching lab and classroom facility has 131 rooms, tutorial labs and faculty offices. It is also LEED-certified, which incorporates energy-saving and sustainable components and features energy efficient heating and cooling systems and rooftop photovoltaic panels that generate electricity.

"This building is phenomenal for science and we are lucky to have it as our first building for students. The faculty has put their heart and soul for the purpose of teaching," said Valley President Sue Carleo. "It's still being finished and things will now run more smoothly. It's taken a lot of patience for the first semester. We're landmarking our first era of Los Angeles Valley College."

In 2001, the voters of Los Angeles approved Proposition A and in 2003 Proposition AA to help improve college facilities at the nine community colleges in the district.

The college used part of its share to construct the Allied and Health Science building, which houses life science, physical science, earth science, anthropology and health science. It was open the first day of the fall semester for students to learn, but with some unfinished business.

Shelves could not be used for storing toxic chemicals because they had the wrong dimensions and there was a lack of equipment and materials, leaving frustrated instructors who were unable to perform labs with students.

"There were some glitches that we don't want to repeat, but everything is a learning process," said Mark Drummond, LACCD chancellor. "I appreciate everyone's tolerance."

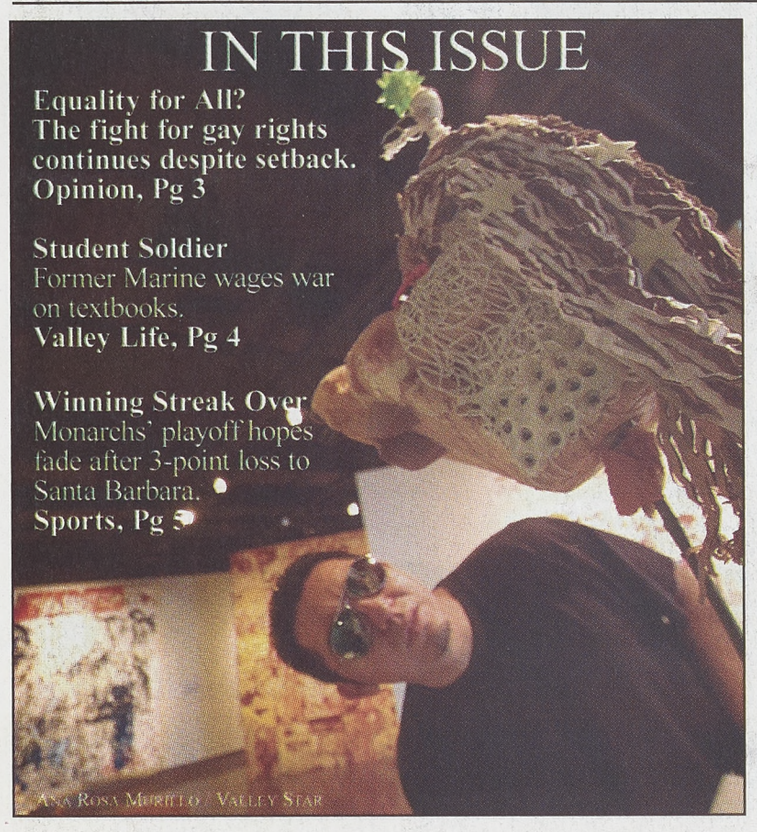
Guest speaker Kelly Candaele, president of The Board of Trustees, touched on Measure J, the $3.5 billion bond Los Angeles voters approved on the Nov. 4 ballot.

"We are here to celebrate this building and the great news that Measure J was passed. We can continue with construction and change students' lives," said Candale. "We are going to do our best for you to earn the trust of all who voted for this."

After speeches by Carleo, Drummond, Candaele, Karen Roy and Don Gauthier, the green ribbon was cut and Roy welcomed guests to take a tour of the building.

JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**MAKING THE CUT** – President of the Board of Trustess Kelly Candaele and Valley College President Sue Carleo cut the ribbon for the official opening of the Allied Health and Sciences Buliding last Wednesday Nov. 5.



ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

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## *Election Results Are A Mixed Bag for Californians*

BY ASTRID SEIPELT
EDITOR IN CHIEF

With all the election results tabulated, Barack Obama need only count down the days until he is inaugurated as the 44th president of the United States of America. In an election that saw the first African American elected president, Los Angeles County saw a 66 percent voter turnout.

President-elect Obama won the Electoral College vote in a landslide, with 365 votes going to the Illinois senator and 173 held by McCain.

Members of the Valley College community reacted with pride and elation to Obama's election. Nursing major Kenny Adams said it gave him hope in humanity.

"It seems like people have finally gotten to a point where they are actually able to elect a president based on his having a good plan for what is going to happen to this nation, aside from just the normal clichés that claim each presidency, like kissing babies," said Adams.

During the election that decided the next president, California also voted on 12 propositions. According to the Los Angeles Times, the controversial Proposition 8 was passed, 52 percent to 48 percent. This means that the state constitution will be amended to state that only marriage between a man and a woman will be recognized. The status of the thousands of same-sex marriages conducted since the California Supreme Court gave homosexual couples that right in May is yet to be determined.

Madina Boomwal, vice president of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Questioning Club said the club was thrown by the outcome of the vote from what they perceived to be a liberal state.

"It came as a shock…That's pretty much it, its a disappointment," said Boomwal. "It's definitely not the end of it, there is no way people are just going to sit and let it happen."

Proposition 2, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, also passed with a 63 percent yes vote, and Proposition 4, Parent Notification Before Terminating a Minor's Pregnancy, was rejected with a 52 percent no vote.

In a boon for the Los Angeles Community College District, Measure J was passed with a 70 percent yes vote. Three and a half billion dollars in bond money will be distributed within the district to improve classrooms, laboratories and equipment. County Measure R also passed, meaning that for the next 30 years, L.A. County sales tax will be increased by a half cent per year to fund repairs and improvements to roads and freeways, expand public transportation and provide traffic relief.

"When the voters stand up and get behind the schools, its promising," said Josh Logan Wible, Associated Student Union president. "It's going to help us out with a new Media Arts building. We're in the heart of the entertainment industry, yet we have facilities that can't handle what we need."

At Valley, Measure J will assist in funding further construction on campus, performing arts center for dance, music and theater productions.

see *Election* page 2

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# Students Asked to Pay it Forward

BY SASHA SANTACRUZ
STAFF WRITER

The Los Angeles Valley College Foundation may be asking students to pay an optional $1 fee for programs and projects.

The Foundation does not need the money, but would like to see Valley students donate to help increase funds.

"I donate to the school I went to [Cal State University Dominguez Hills], but I donate more to Valley College," said Raul Castillo, executive director of the foundation. "I want to initiate the way students think. It's important to give back to what has helped you."

The Foundation wants to receive the go-ahead from some organizations and administrators before it follows through with the optional fee. It went to the Associated Student Union office and got the support they were looking for.

"They came to the executive council and asked if we would give them the blessing and we said we would support it," said Fernando Alvarez, commissioner of public relations.

The Foundation relies on donors, which include corporations, private individuals and Valley faculty and alumni. When a donor gives a large amount, the Foundation manages it so it builds interest and later uses it to fund the specific request that the donor made. Currently, the college has $1.3 million in endowments.

The Foundation is a non-profit organization, separate from the college that offers support for campus programs and departments, as well as scholarships to Valley students. "Our mission is to raise money to provide support for the college and those who attend," said Castillo.

Departments establish an account with Pro LAVC, the Foundation's partner, and the funds the raised are matched, up to a certain amount, by the Foundation.

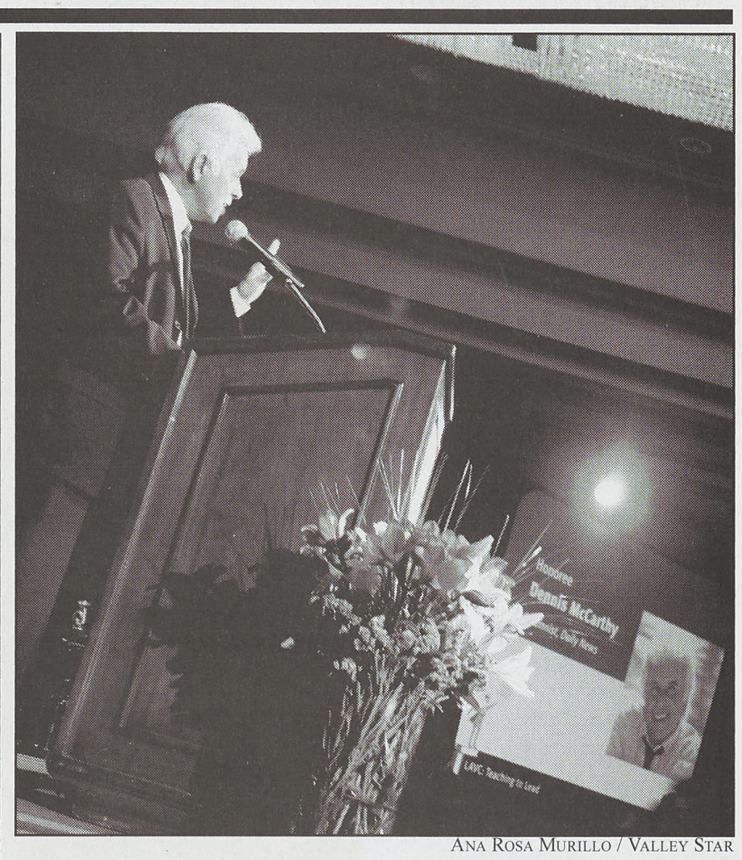
According to the Foundation's annual report, it received $900,841 in revenue and support. Approximately $560,000 was distributed to various campus projects and programs through Pro LAVC such as the English department, dance program, oceanography fund, speech team and Keeping Pace, which is the journalism's department account.

"I don't see any harm in asking for a dollar," said Anna Carlos, a registered nurse major. "If it's going to help students at the college, I'll pay my dollar."

At the beginning of the spring semester, the Foundation prepares for its scholarship season. Last year awards totalled more than $145,000 in scholarships to 300 Valley students.

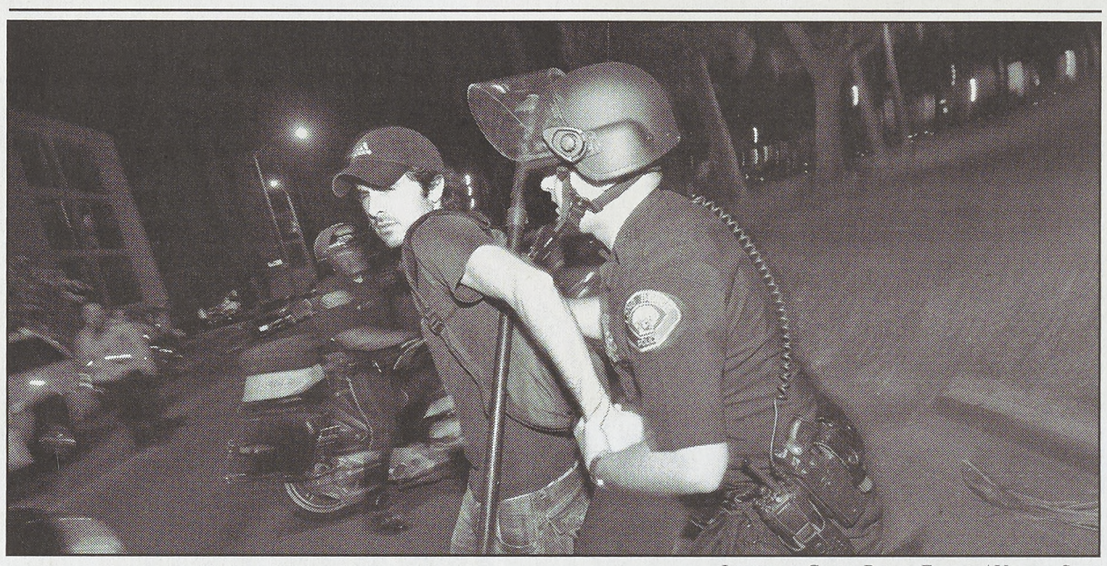
Valley College students need to meet certain criteria that some donors request and several committees will choose the recipients of the scholarships.

The Foundation is still in the process of asking other departments and administrators, but hopes to have the optional dollar fee available to students within three semesters.



ANA ROSA MURILLO / VALLEY STAR

**ALUMNI SPEAKS -** Daily News journalist Dennis McCarthy adresses the guests attending the President's Annual Gala that took place Thursday evening.



JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**MULTIPLE ARRESTS IN LONG BEACH -** A protester is placed under arrest at Friday night's demonstration in Long Beach, after refusing to disperse.

## 'Protests'

*continued from page 1*

fountains?"

Oppontents view the passing of Proposition 8 as a civil rights issue because they feel that they are being discriminated against and don't have equal opportunity if they are banned from marrying.

Dawn Barckett, 43, marched the streets with a banner stating, "I'm straight and don't H8."

"I have friends and family that are gay and I'm black," said Barckett. "It's important for those who are black to support the gay community because we've been discriminated and now they are being discriminated. It shouldn't be that way."

Seven out of 10 African American voters and more than half of Latinos backed Proposition 8, according to Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, which conducted the exit polling used by the National Election Pool.

Shortly after 8 p.m., the corner of Alamitos Avenue and Broadway was crammed with marchers who crowded the sidewalks in front of businesses. The streets soon cleared as protesters decided to take the rally farther than planned and marched down Broadway toward First Street.

Police soon began to barricade streets that weren't part of the protesters route and marchers began to get frustrated, stopping traffic. Motorists didn't seem to mind as they cheered and honked. Patrons at restaurants and coffee shops shouted "No on Prop 8," and gave protestors the thumbs up.

Sam Carwol, 58, a lifetime resident of Long Beach, stepped outside her house to watch and lifted her wine glass in support of the rally saying, "Abraham Lincoln once said, 'Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal…' When are we going to make him happy?" she said. "I was never more proud to be an American and embarrassed to be a Californian."

Protestors want to make sure that their voices are heard so legislators can urge California's Supreme Court to overturn Proposition 8.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who opposed the same-sex marriage ban, discussed Proposition 8's passage during an interview with CNN Sunday.

"It's unfortunate, obviously, but it is not the end because I think this will go back into the courts," said Schwarzenegger. "It's the same as in the 1948 case when blacks and whites were not allowed to marry. This falls into the same category."

Schwarzenegger went on to state that the legality of the unions of the 18,000 gay and lesbian couples who have already married will not be affected.

Many protestors said that they will continue to organize rallies until the legal challenges to Proposition 8 are resolved.

## 'Election'

*continued from page 1*

In the race for the U.S. House of Representatives, Howard Berman (D) was reelected as the representative for the 28th district, in which Valley is located. Carol Liu (D) was elected State Senator for the 21st District, and Paul Krekorian (D) was elected to the State Assembly for the 43rd district.

Valley political science professor Anthony O'Regan said that students should expect many changes between now and Jan. 20, and beyond.

"The interim period is a very exciting time in the sense that the next 11 weeks, the Bush supporters are going to push through a lot of executive orders," said O'Regan. "It's going to get a lot more exciting when Obama takes office and see what's going to happen with a Democratic congress. You're going to see a stimulus package, definitely, maybe even before he takes office."

According to National Public Radio, the Democratic Party gained seven seats in the U.S Senate, with two seats still to be called. The Democrats have gained 19 seats in the House of Representatives.

## Corrections

In the November 5, 2008 issue, "Colleges Score with Measure J," Donald Gauthier's name was misspelled and Jim Rogers was mistitled as the leader of URS. Rogers' title is project manager.

In "Monarchs Trounce Brahmas, No Bull," Gerald Scarber was incorrectly identified as Matt Johnson in the photo caption.

## 'Grant'

*continued from page 1*

for around ten to twelve classes each for the fall and spring semesters, and five classes for each of the intersessions. The money we allocated for creating resources for the five courses may not be enough."

The grant is designed to work in phases, the most important being the Tutor Infusion Program for the basic math classes, 105, 112, 115, 120 and 125. TIP will involve a tutor being assigned to a class where he will help students during learning activities, as well as conduct two-to three-hour tutoring sessions outside of the classroom.

Another goal of the grant will be to establish a TIP lab that will be open Monday through Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Math Sciences 113, forstudents who can't make it to the sessions or whose classes don't have TIP tutors.

This spring, the math department will also conduct three workshops for instructors and students aimed at improving teaching and learning. The topics have not yet been finalized, but according to Sutcliffe, one will be on math anxiety and test-taking techniques.

The grant expires at the end of Sept. 2009, at which point Valley may apply for an extension depending on the results of the program.

"I think we will have to ask for an extension," Sutcliffe said. "I can't see how we can finish all that we promised to deliver in such a short time. The resources, for instance, will take a while to create and the faculty members are all busy teaching and grading exams. I know that Valley asked for a lot more than what we got."

Valley math professor Steve Castillo sees this one-year-grant as an initial trial period for the program.

"One year is… to figure out what we can do and how we can make, basically, students perform better," said Castillo. "If it happens, then we're going to keep doing it, so the fact that it's one year doesn't mean that after one year, everything's stopped."

The overall feeling about the grant is that it will be a crucial step toward helping students in an academic department that has seen declining productivity and retention over the years.

"I am happy that we got the grant. It is always good to try new things to see what will help the students. It will take a while to see whether or not it will work," said Sutcliffe. "A year is not long enough. But I think it's good for the students to see that we care about their success and that we're trying to help them attain their goals."

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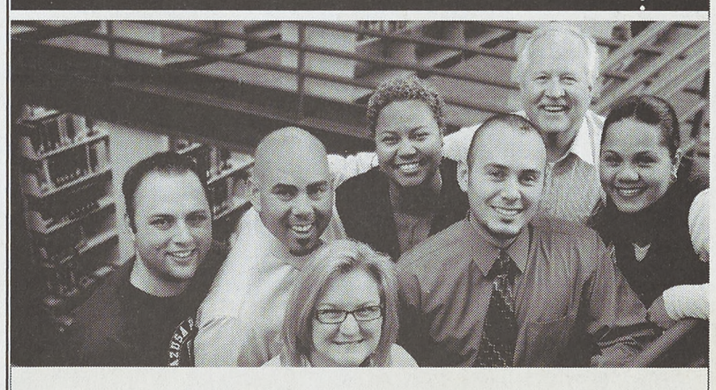

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# Barack Obama: Yes, He Did

By Astrid Seipelt
Editor in Chief

To quote music producer Mark Ronson, when Illinois Sen. Barack Obama captured enough Electoral College votes to be named president, it "Felt like the whole world had won the Superbowl."

Throughout his 22-month campaign, Obama had one message; "Change." It was easy to see this change in the people the day after the election, with strangers greeting each other with smiles, and students and staff on campus buoyed by hope. Americans across the nation felt pure optimism waking up Wednesday with the knowledge that the more than 120 million of their countrymen went out and cast a ballot, and the right man for the job, got the job.

The time we live in now is uncertain. The economic crisis weighs heavily on the minds of everyone, even students. The choice between staying in a job that can pay the bills or going to school and earning a degree is not a choice that young adults should have to face, and President-Elect Obama has the knowledge to improve the fortune of the United States, if not point it in the right direction.

Our soon to be president is an intelligent man, and world leaders have already recognized this. Even the people of Iraq are hopeful for his leadership, with many news outlets reporting that Iraqi leaders trust Obama to keep his word and get the troops out, something that they did not trust Sen. John McCain to do.

"This is our time, to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American dream…" said Obama during his victory speech in Chicago Nov. 4.

From his words it is clear that he wants to work hard to take America out of the ditch that it is in. He is not a miracle worker and cannot fix all the problems set before him immediately. But, the millions who voted for him last Tuesday knew that, and are prepared to work with him.

After all, another great president, John F. Kennedy, who inspired people with his words, and those words still ring true today. We must not think in terms of what this country can do for us, but for what we can do for our country to help it move onward, and upward.

# *America Lets Itself Down*

By Sarah Knowles
Opinion Editor

Election night proved unforgettable as we selected the first African American president. It is a huge step for the country, and celebrations were called for. But by wallowing in hatred for the Republican Party, many Democrats did nothing but embarrass and let down a campaign that should have ended gracefully.

At Valley College, students and faculty members rejoiced in the much-needed progress the election brought.

"It's such a remarkable step," said student Marco Luerte.

The positivity also shined through the candidates themselves, who handled the electoral finale as poised as possible. President-elect Barack Obama praised his opponent during his victory speech.

"He has endured sacrifices for America that most of us cannot begin to imagine, and we are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader," said Obama.

As celebrations ended, and the President-elect turned to more pressing matters, such as the way he will run the country come Jan. 20, supporters of the historical presidential pick have done nothing but stir up unnecessary hate.

The streets of Hollywood filled with supporters donning Obama shirts, not content on showing their pride at how far the country has come, but happily disgracing the democratic process.

"[Expletive] McCain!" said one supporter on Hollywood Boulevard. "I ain't going to vote for no gay marriage!"

Not only do those harping on about our newfound 'equality' continue to show no respect for former prisoner of war McCain, but many of the liberal voters voted against equality for all, as Proposition 8 was passed. According to the Los Angeles Times, 52.4 percent of Californians voted for the proposition.

"Everyone should have equal rights," said one opponent of Prop. 8, according to the the Times. At a recent protest, one protestor held a sign reading, "I have a dream too."

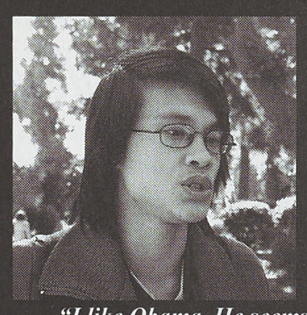
"How you lose really shows your character, doesn't it?" said 'On the Record' host Greta Van Susteren, in response to McCain's graceful concession speech. Sadly, the same could not be said for many of Obama's supporters, as the country moved five steps forward, but ended up taking six steps back.

ILLUSTRATION / Eduardo Herrera / Special To The Star

## Campus View: *Are you happy with President-elect Obama?*

Photos by Ana Rosa Murillo/Valley Star

*"I think the decision was excellent.He's middle class so a much better fit for us. He's also great for small businesses and beneficiary for common society."*
*- Howard Luck*
*business marketing*



*"I like Obama. He seems realistic. McCain seemed kind of ignorant and a bit of a liar really"*
*- Jahrome Reuangsettakal*
*finance*

*"Either way I didn't care. I don't like politicians, they were both as bad as each other."*
*- Josiah Nie*
*psychology*

*"It's wonderful. Other than having my children it was the happiest day of my life. It's great to live Martin Luther King's dream."*
*- Sherrie Heard*

# Still Hope for Equality

By Kristen Becker
Staff Writer

For many Californians, Barack Obama's historic election to the presidency was dampened by the news that the state's voters also passed Proposition 8, ripping away the recently-attained right of same-sex couples to marry.

While this move is undeniably a road bump for gay rights' supporters, it is hardly the death knell of the movement. Even California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, who vetoed legislation granting same-sex couples the right to marry in 2005 and 2007, spoke out in support of the proposition's opponents.

"[The proposition's opponents] should never give up," Schwarzenegger said. "They should be on it and on it until they get it done."

The tide has changed on this issue and those who are out there protesting the decision will make sure that we will not simply sit back and allow discrimination to happen. While it's important to have their voices heard, opponents of Prop. 8 must remember not to allow their anger over the results get the best of them and alienate those who supported the measure.

It is an unfortunate truth that 7 in 10 African Americans voted in favor of the proposition. Rather than giving into the ugly racism that has been popping up on liberal Web sites, gay rights activists should focus on educating those who voted in favor of the ban rather than condemning them.

"[The Prop. 8 opposition] did not go [to the African American community] and make the arguments about Loving versus Virginia 1967, the case in Virginia which was a Supreme Court case which finally allowed interracial marriage," Melissa Harris Lacewell, a political science professor at Princeton explained to MSNBC's Rachel Maddow. "They didn't talk about the fact that the language used against gay marriage is the same language that was used against interracial marriage. They didn't talk about the fact that lies about churches, about schools were, in fact, lies."

Supporters of gay marriage, while understandably disappointed by the election results, also have reason to be hopeful. When Proposition 22, which defined marriage as only between a man and a woman, passed just eight years ago, it did so with 61 percent of the vote; only 52 percent of voters approved of Proposition 8. Another number to keep an eye on is the youth vote. Voters between the ages of 18 and 29 overwhelmingly opposed the measure, with 61 percent saying no.

The fight for meaningful change will never be easy, but it is now up to supporters of same-sex marriage to change the dialogue and make sure that Californians understand the impact this proposition will have on equal rights for all.

Jonathan Gibby, Photo Editor / Valley Star

**LOVE LOST** - Protesters throughout the streets of Los Angeles held signs sighting California voter's ability to recognize animal rights with the passing of Proposition 2, but their failure to recognize basic human rights.

# *The Pressure to be the Skinniest*

By Jasmine Jackson
Staff Writer

While the pressure to stay a certain weight is important to many of the youth of today, it is no wonder why many girls find themselves going to extremes. According to the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders, there are 7 million women and 1 million men who suffer from these diseases. One in six of these sufferers will die.

"This is a serious condition that should be taken seriously," said Becky Hernandez, theatre major at Valley College. "Young girls should be happy with their body instead of pursuing what they see in magazines."

With fashion magazines and tabloids consuming our society, there isn't much mystery in why girls critique their physical appearance so much.

So-called 'role models' like Paris Hilton, Nicole Ritchie, and Lindsay Lohan catch attention from the media for being so slim. Some of their own eating disorders are a fixture in the media, with the magazines parading the latest depths of their slenderness.

Fashion magazines give women a reason to think that they are never perfect. By featuring unusually tall and underweight models, women compare themselves to these unreal, touched up images. This can cause low self esteem, and in turn, depression and extreme dieting, which can lead to death.

The death rate for eating disorders is high, ranging between 18% (in 20-year studies) and 20% (in 30-year follow-up studies) according to the National Eating Disorder Information Center. In addition, the annual death rate associated with anorexia is more than 12 times higher than the annual death rate due to all other causes combined for females between 15 and 24 years old.

**"The red flags may be the following: abnormal weight loss, fluctuations in weight, purging to reduce weight, extreme concerns with their weight, amenorrhea (absence of menstrual cycle) and withdrawal from food activities."**

*- Sonia Nodal*
*Primary Healtcare Physician*

Some common diets undertaken by young women include the green tea and the low carbohydrate diet. According to Mama's Health, the Atkins diet and other very low carbohydrate diets take your body out of a sugar burning state by practically eliminating all carbohydrates for an induction period that can last two weeks or more. The 'cigarettes and diet coke diet,' which is unhealthy, can lead to other disorders such as cancer. According to CBS News, the most commonly distributed version of Diet Coke (and majority of beverages using artificial sweeteners) rely on Aspartame, which has been blamed by some scientists and medical professionals for possibly causing brain tumors and lymphoma when consumed in large quantities. An unknown fact about this chemical is that once ingested, one of its by-products is methanol.

Those worried about friends or family should be careful to watch out for symptoms, according to Sonia Nodal, Primary Healthcare Physician at Valley's Health Center.

"As a Physician Assistant at the Student Health Center, I often serve as a Primary Care Provider to the students," said Nodal, who points out several warning signs. The red flags may be the following: abnormal weight loss, fluctuations in weight, purging to reduce weight, extreme concerns with their weight, amenorrhea (absence of menstrual cycle) and withdrawal from food activities."

Women should not focus on being unhealthy but on the things that they do best. We need to remember that what is in the magazine or on-screen is not always true. Those women are not always perfect and they have insecurities just as we do, but they are just made to look better so that they and the magazines can make a profit. We must stop this deadly cycle and help impressionable men and women see that true role models are not the one who weighs least.

# VALLEY LIFE

## LAVC EVENTS

**Wednesday, November 12**

Canned Food Drive @ (Student Services Office/Lion's Den/Writing Center/LAVC Bookstore) – Contact: Tracee Porter (818) 947-2694

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (Monarch Square) – Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

"Untidy: the Worlds of Doug Harvey" Exhibition @ 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. (Art Gallery) - Contact: (818) 778-5536 http://www.lavc.edu/arts/artgallery.html

**Thursday, November 13**

Canned Food Drive @ (Student Services Office/Lion's Den/Writing Center/LAVC Bookstore) – Contact: Tracee Porter (818) 947-2694

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**Friday, November 14**

Canned Food Drive @ (Student Services Office/Lion's Den/Writing Center/LAVC Bookstore) – Contact: Tracee Porter (818) 947-2694

LAVC Bookstore Sidewalk Sale @ 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. (Monarch Square) – Contact: LAVC Bookstore at (818) 947-2313

LAVC Job Club @ 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Cafeteria Conference Room); RSVP required – Contact: (818) 947-2941 http://www.lavc.edu/jobtraining/job-club.html

## Think Transfer!

**Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transer application deadline is Nov. 30. Apply online at www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply or www.csumentor.edu**

**Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Admin. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center**

**All events held in Career/Transfer Center unless other wise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.**

**Wednesday, November 12**

**UC Santa Barbara rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
**How to Transfer Workshop 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.**
**Undecided Major/Career Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, November 13**

**UC Santa Cruz Rep 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**
**CSU Los Angeles Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.**
**Undecided Major/Career Workshop 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Friday, November 14**

**Free bus trip to USC Transfer Day 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
**Last day to sign-up for November 21st UCLA Transfer Day bus trip**

**Monday, November 17**

**UC Los Angeles rep 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**
**College Application Personal Statement Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, November 18**

**CSU Northridge Rep 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.**
**College Application Personal Statement Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**
**How to Transfer Workshop 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

**On Campus**

# When Worlds Collide

**■ A deeper look into Valley College's latest exhibit "Untidy: The Worlds of Doug Harvey."**

BY ANDY ALCARAZ
STAFF WRITER

ANA ROSA MURILLO/ VALLEY STAR

**CAPTURING INSPIRATION** – Liberal arts student Jose Estrada takes the time between classes to admire a new exhibit, "Untidy: The Worlds of Doug Harvey," held at the Valley College Art Gallery.

At first glance it doesn't seem like much. There are a couple of portraits on thinly stretched canvas, loosely pasted clippings of random pictures, giant pseudo- comic strips and a couple of unorthodox sculptures.

The music that is not really music, but rather a collection of sounds sets the scene along with the soft yellow lighting. The ambiance is inescapable at the Valley College Art Gallery, housing the works of Doug Harvey, painter, sculptor, musician, writer, artist and self- described "whatever," according to his Blogger profile.

There are vast works occupying an entire wall, some taking up only a foot of space and others hanging from the ceiling. When you walk into the gallery, it will take all but five seconds to know what you're in for.

"I'd never seen that before," said Valley student Kenya Escobar, referring to Harvey's Kato Kaitlin portrait made mostly out of faux fur. "It was different."

The "different" is dead on. Especially when his other works include "Great Expectoration's: Bling," a collection of random pictures taken from printed sources and pasted onto paper where a giant monster-like figure is pouring media images onto three blank silhouettes of people, "Lamp Chandelier," a connected work consisting of power strips, lights and plastic candles all arranged craftily, and the absurd "Joe's Temper," a giant comic strip about the disintegration and restoration of a marriage through consumerism. Together these pieces all lend to the difficulty in identifying Harvey's artistic knack.

> **"Harvey's mixture of sources and materials results in a narrative art that is lively and [full of] unabashed creative energy. His work is subversive and iconoclastic"**
> *-Dennis Reed*
> *Dean of Fine, Performing & Media Arts*

"Attempting to characterize the breadth of his work… is challenging," states Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts, Dennis Reed in a news release on the college's website. "Harvey's mixture of sources and materials results in a narrative art that is lively and [full of] unabashed creative energy. His work is subversive and iconoclastic."

Where you go next in the gallery is anybody's guess. To the left is a table of zines (cheap, self-published magazines), mail art, comic strip drawings, $5 art (available for purchase) and a portable CD player with tracks composed by Harvey, where some of the more interesting sound art includes "Cold Black Coffee," a track that was dubbed "the worst recording ever" by Los Angeles radio station KXLU, "Pet Music," tracks designed for lounging animals and "CTZN KN," a condensed 3 minute recording of the sounds of the classic film.

To the right are more paintings and sculptures that include a headless mannequin, a small pictorial retelling of doubting Thomas, requesting to touch Jesus' wound and Harvey's favorite, "Clear the Grid," a black and white painting of random figures hidden throughout the work. It gives Harvey's account about the actual nature of his art.

"Things emerge and disappear, really generic and specific things," said Harvey. "It takes information and turns it into a different thing."

That different thing for Harvey is communication. He's not quick to say that all of his art has a direct meaning; instead he focuses on the language between the work and the audience. What it can give someone is what most fascinates him and it is this fact that perhaps makes this exhibit so different from others and so unique to anyone viewing it.

"It's the beauty of the language versus the function of the language. If people come away from my work wanting to make their own work, or seeing the world differently, more creatively," said Harvey. "Then I think the message has been received."

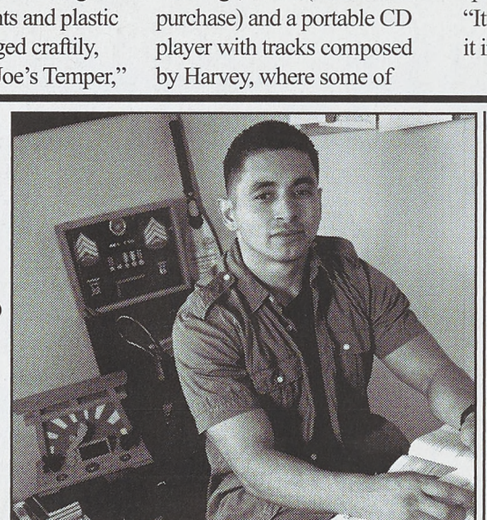
The exhibit "Untidy: The Worlds of Doug Harvey" is part of a month- and- a- half long gallery being held in the Art building's showroom from Oct. 15 - Nov. 26.

**Valley People**

# Starting a New Chapter in Life

**■ After years of service, Armando Osorno searches for what's next.**

BY LAUREN LEES
STAFF WRITER



KLARA MILLER/ SPECIAL TO THE STAR

**HEROES** – Valley student Armando Osorno studies at his desk. A communications major, Armando served in the Marine Corps for 8 years.

He sits tall and speaks clearly and confidently, carrying an air of discipline and structure that only the military can provide.

With a mouth full of braces, 30-year-old Armando Osorno can easily pass for someone in their early twenties, but already has served two terms as a U.S. Marine, including a seven month tour in Iraq where he sustained injuries, some of which still affect him to this day.

"Being able to concentrate sometimes in class or being able to studying at home is just a little bit difficult for me, just because my brain has been bumped around a couple of times… but I constantly remind myself I'm in class," he says with a laugh.

A graduate of Grant High School in 1997, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1999 at the age of 19, after spending the two years working in a furniture store and UPS in New Jersey.

"I was thinking about doing something bigger … I wanted to serve my country somehow and I wanted to do the hardest, toughest, the most respected side of the military branch, which is the Marine Corp," he said.

After a three-month boot camp, Osorno emerged as a Marine, spending his first term of active duty traveling the world for training. In April 2006, he deployed to Iraq as part of a Personal Security Team, protecting any people of high importance that were visiting the country. He transferred to a transition team called the Rogue Element, working in non-coalition cities to better enforce and enhance Iraqi police.

Sergeant Victor Quinones served with Osorno during Iraq, when they traveled to Hit, a city located in the Al-Anbar province. Their job was to assist an Iraqi army of 600 with no control over the city. By the end of their seven-month term they not only brought stability to Hit, but five other surrounding cities.

"We slept, fought, bled in those cities to win them over. And we got through by ourselves. We were called the 'forgotten 15'," said Quinones.

It was during this time Osorno sustained multiple injuries from Improvised Explosive Devices, handmade bombs planted throughout the terrain. He tore ligaments in his right ankle and in his right shoulder, broke his collarbone, and suffered from multiple concussions. Coming back home, he underwent surgery for his injuries and took his recovery time to think about his future.

"I did a lot of soul searching, or whatever you want to call it," he laughed. "I have come a long way but what else do I want to do with my life. I thought about my education."

Enrolling at Valley College in September 2007, he sampled various general education classes until he fell in love with communications. Currently he is applying to UCLA, USC, UC San Diego, and UC Santa Barbara.

His time as a Marine serves as the foundation for his future in education and life, which he hopes will include owning his own business, meeting his wife, and becoming a father.

"One day I would like to have kids, and I want to be able to give them more than just what I learned in the Marine Corps or on my own in the streets," said Osorno. "I want to be able to help them with their homework. I want to be educated and educate my kids, give them what I didn't have."

**On Campus**

# *Show and Tell at Valley*

**■ Students premiere film projects to peers and families after a year of anticipation.**

BY BRAD TAYLOR
STAFF WRITER

Eager Valley College media arts students showcased their film projects Saturday at the Main Stage Theater and gave a glimpse into the future of cinema.

Students, along with their family and friends, were able to see their hard work on the big screen and see what their peers in other classes have been working on during the past year. The showcase was divided into different classes from beginning film production to advanced.

"It is great to have the pleasure to show our students' films, videos and other projects," said Media Arts Chair Eric Swelstad.

With Measure J passing in the recent election, Valley will receive the additional funds needed to complete the project and put things on the fast track. The media arts faculty was proud and excited to talk about the new construction that will update the facility.

"We can count down the days until we cut the ribbon on the new media arts building," said Valley President Dr. Susan Carleo. "We have the money to do it right and make it fantastic."

Even with all the celebration about Measure J, the real focus was on the films. For some students, this was the first time seeing final versions of their film, as last year there was no screening.

"It is exciting and fun, said advanced production student Daniel Gutierrez who screened his film "Dead End." "We all worked very hard last year we would have loved to see it here but because of the construction we couldn't, but it was worth the wait."

Awards were also presented as former Valley student Ima Kuroda was presented with the "Art Council Showcase Award" for her short film "Reality" by the Dean of Fine, Performing and Media Arts Dennis Reed. Her movie about the "life" of a mannequin was a crowd favorite, and a reminder of the talent in the media arts department.

Technical difficulties during the event mirrored the ones seen in some of the student films. But both were reminders that Valley is all about learning and perfecting craft. Often times the mistakes, like missing reels and effects errors,

turned the ordinary into real art, adding charm and personality.

Students interested in making their own films should check out the many media arts offerings in the winter and spring catalogs or check the new media arts website http://www.lavc.edu/mediaarts/ for specifics.

## TOP 5 STORIES @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

***Obama "Barocks" Nation***
By Astrid Seipelt

***Cafeteria Leaves Students' Pockets Empty***
By Sharon Hardwick

***Thank Goodness I t's Over***
By Sarah Knowles

***"Watch" and Learn***
By Brad Taylor

***Awkward Conversation Awaits Us Post Election***

## WHAT'S NEW @ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

***Frugal Fall Fashion Finds***
By Astrid Seipelt

***NFL Preview***
By H.Gore

***"Quantum of Solace" Review***
By Brad Taylor

## UPCOMING RELEASES

### CD

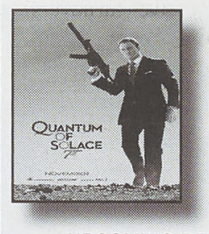
**PICK OF THE WEEK:**

**T-PAIN,** *THR33 RINGS*

OTHER RELEASES:
**Hilary Duff**, *Best of Hilary Duff*
**Taylor Swift**, *Fearless*
**David Archuleta**, *David Archuleta*
**Tray Chapman**, *One Bright Future*

### FILM

**PICK OF THE WEEK:**



**QUANTUM OF SOLACE,** *DANIEL CRAIG, MATHIEU ALMARIC*

UPCOMING RELEASES:
**Bolt (Nov. 21)-** *John Travolta, Miley Cyrus*
**Twilight (Nov. 21)-** *Kristen Stewart*
**Four Christmases (Nov. 26)-** *Vince Vaughn*

### DVD

**PICK OF THE WEEK:**

**KUNG FU PANDA**
*Jack Black*
*Jackie Chan*

OTHER RELEASES:
**Hellboy II: The Golden Army**
**This Christmas**
**Star Wars: The Clone Wars**

### CONCERTS

**Taking Back Sunday (Nov. 13)-** *Nokia Theatre*
**Ludo (Nov. 13)-** *Troubador*
**Matisyahu/ Flobots (Nov. 18)-** *Club Nokia*
**Coldplay (Nov. 25)-** *Honda Center*
**Smashing Pumpkins (Dec. 2)-** *Gibson Ampitheatre*
**Smashing Pumpkins (Dec. 3)-** *Gibson Ampitheatre*
**Mike Ness (Dec.4)-** *The El Rey*
**Mike Ness (Dec. 5)-** *The El Rey*
**Slightly Stoopid/ Bad Brains (Dec. 6)- The** *Hollywood Paladium*
**Tom Morello/ The Nightwatchman (Dec. 9)-** *The El Rey*
**Metallica (Dec. 12)-** *Citizens Business Bank Arena*

### DON'T FORGET TO YouTube

**Smashing Pumpkins.-** *G.L.OW.*
**One Day as a Lion-** *Wild International*
**Guns N' Roses-** *Chinese Democracy*
**Shiny Toy Guns-** *Ghost Town*

### DON'T FORGET TO TiVo

**Boston Legal-** *Mondays on ABC*
**House-** *Tuesdays on Fox*
**Dinner Impossible-***Wed. on Food Network*
**Celebrity Rehab-** *Thursdays on Vh1*
**Dexter-** *Sundays on Showtime*

# Monarch Ladies Sunk by Crafty Corsairs

SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

**GET BACK** - Valley College player Vivan Garcia protects her goal against a Santa Monica College player during the Monarch's 5-2 loss at home on Friday.

**■ The Valley College soccer team sits on a 4-14-3 record and a bottom ranking with one game left in the season.**

BY H. GORE
STAFF WRITER

Valley College started their final home game of the season slowly and ended the first half badly on their way to a 5-2 loss at the feet of the Santa Monica College Corsairs.

"We came out pretty flat," said Valley head coach Shane Watkins. "If we had come out in the first half like we did in the second, who knows, maybe the mistakes don't happen."

The errors in question occurred during the final five minutes of the first half, with the Lady Monarchs already trailing 1-0. The Corsairs were awarded a free kick after a Valley foul and Xochitl Salgado scored from 25 yards out to make the score 2-0. Valley goalkeeper Jocelyn Mercado fended off numerous attacks in the early going, but made a poor decision in challenging Lauren Klibingat at the top of the box. Klibingat was able to avoid the keeper and push across the first of her two goals for a 3-0 Corsairs advantage.

"It all came out of hard work," said Klibingat. "Our whole team did really well and the second half was all of our subs so they did good too."

Jacqueline Dawson of SMC tacked on a goal with less than 10 seconds remaining in the first half to make the score 4-0, and Jennifer Hager's score early in the second half gave Santa Monica an insurmountable 5-0 lead.

Valley had a number of scoring chances throughout the game, but failed to convert until Marisol Huerta scored on a free kick midway through the second session. Coach Watkins moved Erica Nolasco from midfield to forward in the second half in an attempt to get the team going. Nolasco proved the decision to be a good one by scoring her team-leading sixth goal and pulling Valley within three at 5-2.

"I got a breakaway because Rosa [Maria Castillo] made a good pass," said Nolasco. "I broke away and I tried to hit the corner and I scored."

The Lady Monarchs are looking to end their season on a positive note with an away game against the Mission College Eagles on Friday.

- Valley played Citrus College Tuesday and lost 1-0

## SPORTS REPORT

### FOOTBALL PACIFIC CONFERENCE

| COLLEGE | PC | ALL |
|---|---|---|
| Antelope Valley | 6-0 | 6-3 |
| Santa Barbara | 5-1 | 5-5 |
| **Valley** | **4-2** | **5-4** |
| West L.A | 3-3 | 4-5 |
| Pierce | 2-4 | 2-7 |
| Santa Monica | 2-4 | 2-7 |
| East L.A | 1-5 | 1-8 |
| Southwest | 1-5 | 1-8 |

### WATER POLO WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE MEN

| COLLEGE | WSC | ALL |
|---|---|---|
| Ventura | 4-0 | 15-8 |
| Cuesta | 3-1 | 18-13 |
| **Valley** | **2-2** | **14-14** |
| Citrus | 1-3 | 12-19 |
| Santa Monica | 0-4 | 2-18 |

### WOMEN

| COLLEGE | WSC | ALL |
|---|---|---|
| Ventura | 3-1 | 16-9 |
| Citrus | 3-1 | 12-12 |
| Cuesta | 1-3 | 13-21 |
| **Valley** | **3-1** | **18-9** |
| Santa Monica | 0-4 | 1-26 |

### SOCCER WESTERN STATE CONFERENCE SOUTH WOMEN

| COLLEGE | WSC | ALL |
|---|---|---|
| Pierce | 9-1-2 | 15-3-4 |
| Bakersfield | 9-1-2 | 13-4-3 |
| Santa Monica | 8-2-2 | 12-2-5 |
| Glendale | 5-4-3 | 8-7-5 |
| Mission | 3-7-2 | 6-12-2 |
| Citrus | 3-9 | 7-13-2 |
| Canyons | 2-9 | 4-12 |
| **Valley** | **2-8** | **4-14-3** |

# Streak Ended by Santa Barbara

BY SCOTT MITCHELL
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

The Monarchs' five game winning streak came to an end Saturday night, which saw the hometown team Santa Barbara hold on to a 55-52 victory, despite a 28 point fourth quarter rally by Valley College.

"There were many plays that could be pointed to as the reason for the loss," said quarterback Bret Visciglia. "Having five turnovers myself doesn't help the team, but collectively we really gave them the game. "

The Monarchs started the game in good shape with a 38-yard kickoff return by Rodney Glass. Three plays later, the Vaqueros scored on an 80-yard interception by Lamont Dupree. Valley bounced back with a 64-yard scoring drive that culminated in a 54-yard pass to Matt Johnson.

Valley Quarterback Bret Visciglia completed 31-of-52 passes for 528 yards and six touchdowns, with four of his scoring strikes coming in the fourth quarter.

Special teams play by the Vaqueros and turnovers were arguably the difference in the game, as the Monarchs were unable to contain the Vaquero kick off and punt returns in the first half. Most of the Vaquero drives started in Monarch territory, and the Vaqueros averaged 44 yards per punt return, 34 yards per kick off return, and had five interceptions.

"We have a lot of respect for LA Valley, their offense was fantastic..." said Vaquero head coach Craig Moropoulos. "They threw a few new fronts at us that we hadn't seen the whole year."

Valley averaged eight yards per play versus a near 6-yard average for the Vaqueros, as well as 18 more offensive plays and had half as many penalties, and penalty yards, as the Vaqueros. Statistically, it seemed as though Valley had the advantage, but football games are not won on paper, but on the field.

Valley trailed the entire game with the half ending 31-21. It was not until the fourth quarter that the Monarchs fought back, coming from a 45-28 defecit at the end of the third, outscoring the Vaqueros 28-10. With 1:30 left in the game, the Monarchs turned over the ball the Santa Barbara, resulting in a Vaquero touchdown and a 55-45 lead. Monarch Gerard Scarber answered with a touchdown, bringing the game within three points. Unfortunately, Valley gave the ball over to the Vaqueros, and they ran the clock down and secured victory.

Valley running back James Walker said that next week's game, the last of the season, would probably not get them into a bowl game or the championship, but they will go out with their heads high.

"Its our last time playing as a team, and its our chance to go out on a positive note and leave everything on the field," said Walker. "For the few sophomores we have on the team, for some of us it may be the last games of our careers."

The Monarchs now sit third in the rankings at 5-4 overall, and will play Antelope Valley College at home this Saturday. This season has been their best since 2002, when they ended the year 4-6 overall. Their last conference championship was in 1995, and though they lost their bowl game that year, the Monarchs went on to win the No Fear Bowl in 1996.

SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

**ON THE RUN** - Running Back James Walker powers his way up the side line during the Monarchs 55-52 loss to Santa Barbara College on Saturday.

"Our guys needed to fight back and we gave them that opportunity," said Valley running back coach Louis Jones. "Now we have to focus our attention to Antelope Valley and hopefully get a bowl game or be in the playoff hunt."

# Disappointment Reigns at Water Polo Conference

BY SCOTT MITCHELL
CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER

On a day that looked to be full of promise for the Valley College water polo men and women turned to disappointment, as both teams went down to their opponents at Western State Conference Championship held at Citrus College on Friday.

The men's team faced off against Cuesta College in a battle that came down to the last tick of the clock. The green and gold game up short as Cuesta won 10-9.

"We asked them to come out and battle and get themselves in a dogfight, and that is what they did," said Valley Coach Jim McMillan.

In a tight first half, Eduard Mosolov scored the first goal of the match for the Monarchs. Jensen Houston followed up, making the score 3-4. However, Cuesta scored two quick goals and went up 5-4 with four seconds left in the half.

The Monarchs went flat in the third period, missing several big scoring opportunities.

With half the period left in the match, Valley trailed 9-6. Sophomore Greg Fields tied the game with just over two minutes remaining. Due to an unsuccessful attempt at getting a foul called against Cuesta, the ball was taken from Valley possession and Cuesta goaled, taking the score to 10-9. With one second left on the clock, the Monarchs launched a desperate shot that went wide.

"They fought, they battled, they made a great comeback in the fourth," said McMillan.

The womens team had high hopes of earning a first place conference spot, but a physical Citrus team cut the dream short with a 12-6 win.

The Lady Monarchs started the game looking good, taking an early lead with WSC leading goalscorer Lybov Tchougounova scoring in the first minute of play. Citrus fought back to make it 3-2, when a long pass to a streaking player connected behind the lagging Monarch defense.

"Citrus drives a lot and when you don't play a good drive defense you are going to get lots of kick outs and that is exactly what Citrus got," said Monarch Coach Megan Winchell.

The game turned in the last moments of the second quarter when Citrus scored three goals in less than three minutes. Valley went flat and found themselves trailing 8-3 at the half.

"Citrus came back with two quick goals and we didn't come back with anything else…We stayed back on our heels instead of pushing forward," said Winchell.

A penalty called against Citrus at the end of the third period resulted in the ejection of their goalkeeper and a goal for the Monarchs. But, Citrus maintained control of the game, scoring four goals in the second half to Valley's three, giving the game to Citrus with a score 12-6 scoreline.

Citrus Head Coach Tim Kyle said that both teams had strong game plans.

"We were just fortunate enough to come out on the winning side. We came out a little hesitant," said Kyle. "Coming out they might have been a little reserved, they just rose to the occasion."

The ladies play Cuesta on Saturday for a third place finish in the conference and a wild card into the state finals.

"Now that we have this loss we do not have a chance to get first place in our conference, which was our only goal of the season. We can play for third and third isn't horrible," said Winchell.

SCOTT MITCHELL, CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER / VALLEY STAR

**COOL UNDER FIRE-** Valley College goalie Adrian Marcinkowski holds his ground during the loss to Cuesta College at the Western State Conference Championship, held at Citrus College Friday.

## SPORTS OPINION

# *'09 Forecast: Boston v. LA*

BY H. GORE
STAFF WRITER

We're only two weeks in to the 2008-09 NBA season which means there's plenty of time for things to change, but as it stands now we'll be watching the Lakers and Celtics battle for the title in June.

The two teams that played for the NBA championship this past summer still look like the best squads in the league. The Los Angeles Lakers are 5-0 having pounded the likes of Portland, the L.A. Clippers, and the Houston Rockets' trio of Yao Ming, Tracy McGrady, and Ron Artest. The Boston Celtics are 7-1 out of the gate with big wins against the Detroit Pistons, Houston Rockets, and Toronto Raptors.

Even though both teams are powerhouses, that doesn't mean the run for the ring will be an easy one. Heavy is the head that wears the crown even if, as is the Lakers case, it's only a conference championship crown.

In the East, the Pistons recently traded point guard Chauncey Billups and forward Antonio McDyess to the Denver Nuggets for the 33-year-old and still explosive Allen Iverson. The Raptors feature Chris Bosh and a rejuvenated Jermaine O'Neal, the Orlando Magic have superman Dwight Howard, and the Philadelphia 76ers upgraded their roster by adding Elton Brand. The surprisingly 5-0 Atlanta Hawks pushed the Celtics to a seventh game in the first round of the playoffs last spring, and they look like they've carried that experience into this season. The Miami Heat are another dangerous team now that Dwyane Wade is healthy and with the addition of rookie Michael Beasley. Those are some tough teams Boston will have to face in the playoffs, and don't forget LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

NBA fans will recall that the Western conference was unbelievably tough last season, and it will be no different this year. The New Orleans Hornets picked up James Posey to run with Chris Paul and crew, the Utah Jazz will always be in the mix due to head coach Jerry Sloan, and at some point the Dallas Mavericks and San Antonio Spurs will play better. Then, there's the experience of the Phoenix Suns and the youthful energy of the Portland Trailblazers to deal with. The Lakers advantage over all of those teams is their roster depth, and the return of center Andrew Bynum.

Teams have played less than 10 games this season and injuries can change destiny, but with everything being equal we'll be watching the Lakers and Celtics fight for the championship in June.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JONATHAN GIBBY, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**MARCH FOR CHANGE** – More than 20,000 opposing the same-sex marriage ban that passed on the Nov. 4 ballot gathered in Silver Lake Saturday night for a demonstration that ended at the intersection of Hollywood and Highland.

# Prop. 8 Protests Sweep Throught The Southland

JONATHAN GIBBY
PHOTO EDITOR

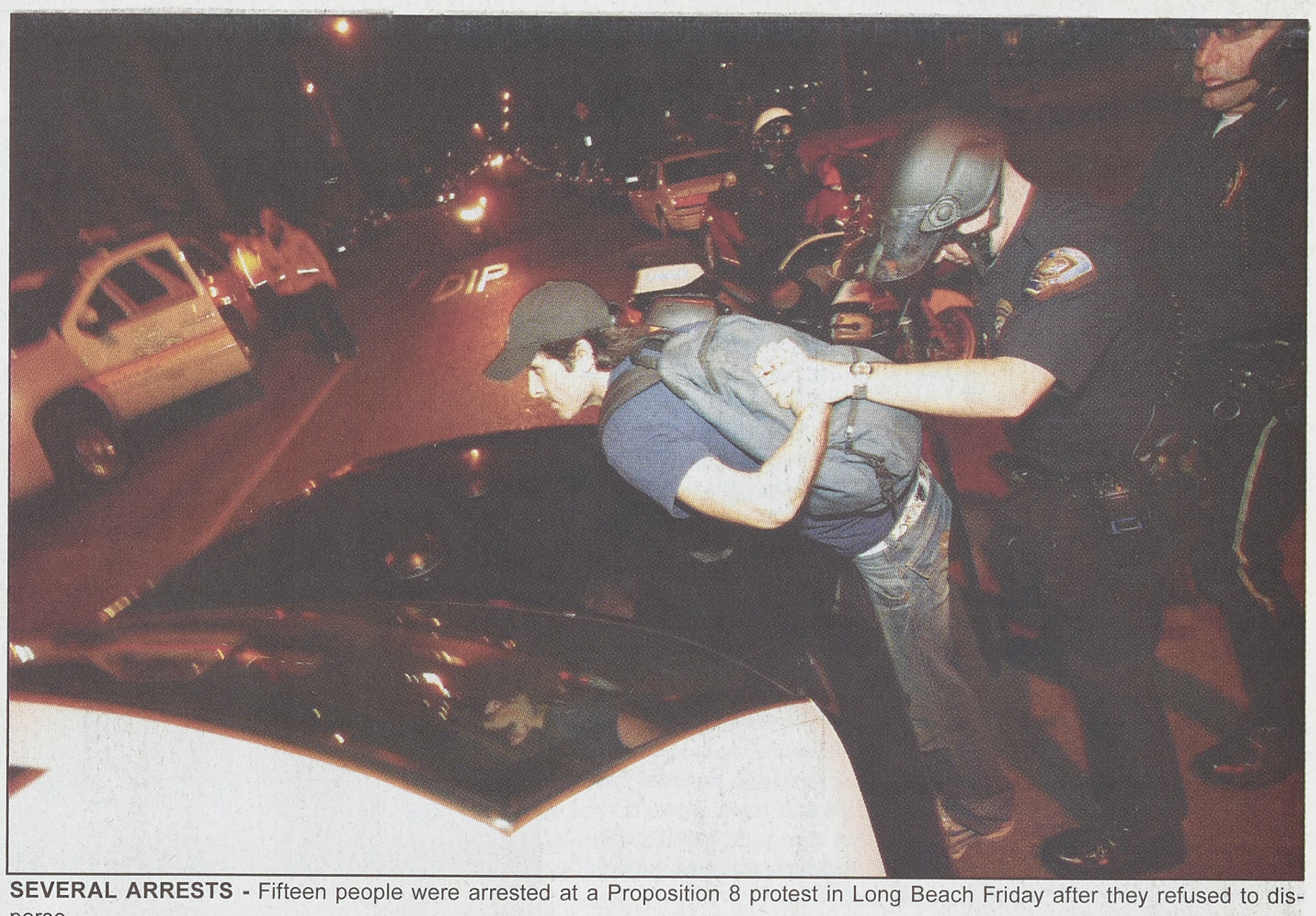
Outraged by the passage of Proposition 8, angry activists spilled into the streets in large numbers the day after the election took place, to have their voices be heard. In scenes that exploded throughout California in the fight for equal rights, many compared the protests and cause to the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s.

Demonstrations started on Wednesday night in the Hollywood area and by Thursday morning, they had redirected their efforts to the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints Mormon temple in Westwood. According to opponents of Proposition 8, the Mormon Church had given more than $20 million to the "Yes on 8" campaign.

Among the many locations in the Los Angeles area, one notable occurrence took place at Sunset Juncture in Silver Lake. The streets of Hollywood were crowded on Saturday with protestors opposing the same-sex marriage ban.

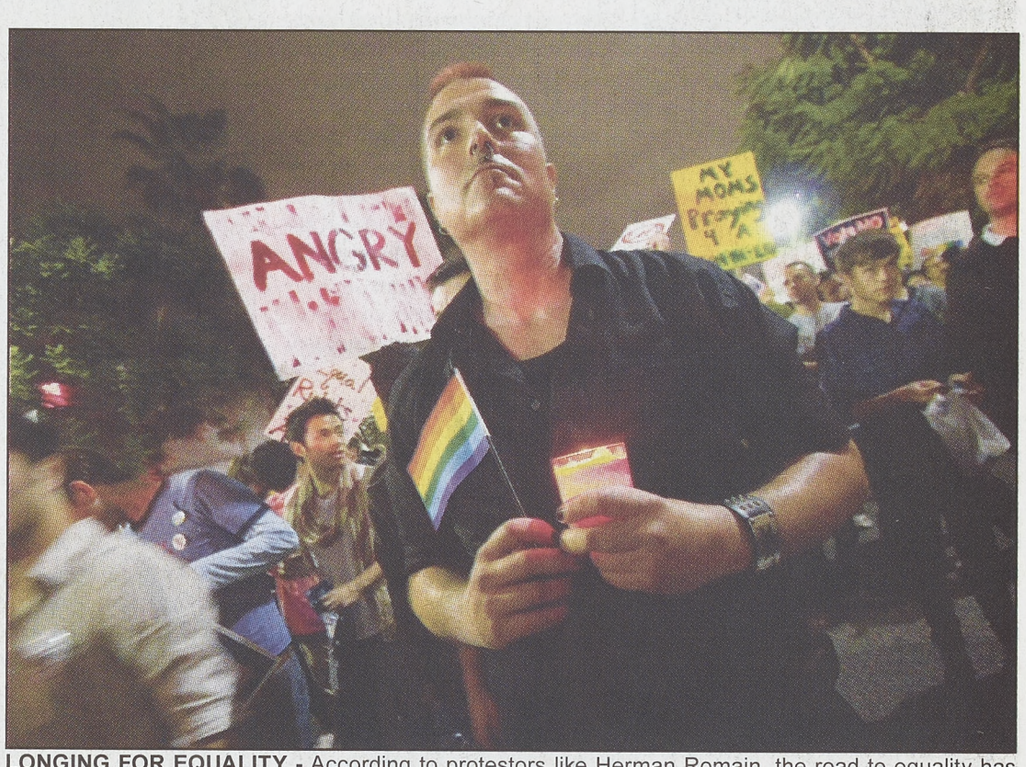
Act Now To Stop War and End Racism Coalition and the L.A. Coalition for Equal Marriage Rights gathered more than 20,000 demonstrators who paraded in Silver Lake and Hollywood. According to ANSWER Coalition it was the largest pro-Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender/Transsexual rally in Los Angeles' history.

Protestors rallied on Hollywood Boulevard, thunderously chanting with poster boards in hand. The protest, which was to be over by 10 p.m., was allowed to continue past midnight and protestors extended their route to Hollywood and Highland. The Los Angeles Police Department allowed hundreds to converge in the busy intersection as they escorted them past the police lines shutting down the Metro station and many neighboring businesses.



**SEVERAL ARRESTS -** Fifteen people were arrested at a Proposition 8 protest in Long Beach Friday after they refused to disperse.

**STOPPED AT THE STEEPLE –** The passing of Proposition 8 forces same-sex couples like Robert and Ronnie to postpone their plans of marriage.




**LONGING FOR EQUALITY -** According to protestors like Herman Romain, the road to equality has been a long one. "I have been fighting for equality all my life, it is disappointing to think that we might get this close and fail," said Romain.